

Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Coretta Scott
King.

Crawford

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20062400

2006

HC 1047/DI 84+



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Coretta Scott King.

Whereas, Coretta Scott King died on January 31, 2006, at the age of 78;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King had been in failing health for several years following a stroke;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King first gained widespread recognition as the wife of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King, however, was a tireless advocate for social and political issues in her own right;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King was born into poverty in Heiberger, Alabama, on April 27, 1927, one of three children;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King spent her childhood on her parents' farm in Heiberger, which had been in the family since the Civil War;

Whereas, The Scotts were so hard hit during the Depression that the children picked cotton to help earn money;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King's father, Obediah Scott, was the first black person in the district to own a truck and open a country store;



Whereas, As a young child, Coretta Scott King walked five miles each day to attend the one-room Crossroads School;

Whereas, When she was older, Coretta Scott King studied at Lincoln High School in Marion, Alabama, nine miles away; because this was too far to walk, her mother hired a bus and drove all the black students in the area to and from school;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King was an intelligent, hardworking student who did well in her schoolwork and was at the top of her class when she graduated in 1945;

Whereas, After graduation from high school, she enrolled at Antioch College, Ohio, where her sister Edythe had been the first full-time black student to live on campus;

Whereas, While at Antioch College, Coretta Scott King majored in music and education and took part in a work-study program, acting as a camp counselor, library assistant, and nursery school attendant;

Whereas, Upon graduation in 1951, Coretta Scott King decided to become a professional singer and was accepted by the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston;

Whereas, It was while she was studying at the conservatory she met Martin Luther King, Jr., also a student in Boston at the time; they were married in 1953 and had three children, Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice;

Whereas, When Coretta Scott King graduated from the conservatory, the Kings moved to Montgomery, Alabama, and Martin Luther King, Jr. began his work as a minister;

Whereas, As the wife of a man committed to civil rights, Coretta Scott King did not have the normally quiet life of a minister's wife;

Whereas, With Martin Luther King's increased involvement in the civil rights movement came danger for the King family;



Whereas, The Montgomery bus boycott brought danger home in a terrifying way - the King house was bombed in 1956;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King was a full partner in her husband's work, walking beside him in marches, traveling abroad with him, and giving speeches when he was unable to do so;

Whereas, The threats to Martin Luther King were eventually carried out when, in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968, he was assassinated;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King carried on with her husband's work when, just four days after his death, she led a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis and took his place in the Poor People's March to Washington;

Whereas, Throughout her life, Coretta Scott King participated in the movement to secure equal rights and justice for all, including having a special audience with the Pope and preaching at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, probably the first woman ever to do so; but her greatest concern was the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change;

Whereas, Coretta Scott King worked tirelessly to raise funds for the center, which now covers three full blocks and houses a library and archives of the civil rights movement;

Whereas, Throughout her life, Coretta Scott King spoke out against injustice, especially racial injustice, and worked to ensure that her husband's dream of fairness and equality could come true: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly recognizes the life
- 2 and accomplishments of a woman who spoke for justice and equality
- 3 throughout her life. Coretta Scott King faced danger and did not flinch.
- 4 She spoke out against injustice wherever she saw it. Coretta Scott King



- 1 will live on in the hearts and minds of people everywhere.
2 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
3 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the curator of the
4 Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

